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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10

SAM-01 /080 W
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O P 292017Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3442
INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
USNAVEUR SIXTH FLEET PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7537

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, AL
SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: HASSAN'S INTRANSIGENCE ALLEGEDLY
BLOCKS SETTLEMENT

REF: MADRID 7536

1. SUMMARY: DIRGEN FOR SUHARA IN PRESIDENCY (A RESPECTED MILITARY OFFICER) TOLD EMBOFF THAT DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS ON SETTLEMENT OF SAHARAIISSUE HAD REACHED IMPASSE OWING TO KING HASSAN'S FIXATION WITH GOING AHEAD WITH THE GREEN MARCH. UNLESS STOPPED (HE SUGGESTED ACTIVE U.S. PRESSURE ON THE KING) DIRGEN FEARS BLOODSHED WILL ENSUE WITH SPAIN ENDING UP AS UNWILLING ALLY OF ALGERIA IN A WIDER MILITARY CONFRON-TATION WITH MOROCCO. END SUMMARY

2. DIRGEN FOR PROMOTION OF SAHARA IN PRESIDENCY, COL.
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BLANCO, TOLD EMBOFF OCT 29 THAT SITUATION IN SAHARA ITSELF

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AND ON DIPLOMATIC FRONT HAD REACHED HYPERCRITICAL STAGE. (EMBOFF HAD WAITED FOR ONE-HALF HOUR TO SEE BLANCO WHO SUBSEQUENTLY SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED TWO SAHARAN "CORTES" DEPUTIES WHO PLEADED WITH HIM TO PROTECT SAHARAN POPULATION FROM FEARED MOROCCAN TAKEOVER.) BLANCO DESCRIBED SITUATION IN SAHARA AS TENSE REQUIRING CURFEW IMPOSED OCT 28.

3. BLANCO REPORTED THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM HAD BROUGHT SEVERAL IDEAS FOR RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM BUT, LIKE OTHERS ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH MOROCCANS, THEY RAN UP AGAINST KING HASSAN'S INTRANSIGENCE AND FIXATIONSWITH OOING AHEAD WITH THE GREEN MARCH. HE CHALLENGED WHAT HE SAID WAS HASSAN'S ALLEGATION THAT THE MARCH COULD NOT BE STOPPED. BLANCO SAID THAT IT COULD BE STOPPED BY CONTROLLING LOGISTICS AND BY NORMAL MILITARY/POLIC CONTROLS. HE AND SPANISH MILITARY OFFICERS HAD TALKED WITH COL. DLIMI, THE COMMANDER OF THE SOUTHERN REGION DURING FORMIN LARAKI'S VISIT OCT 27-28, AND THEY GATHERED THAT IT WAS QUITE FEASIBLE TO STOP THE MARCH. (BLANCO, THE FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SECURITY, IS A LONGTIME FRIEND OF DLIMI.)

4. ACCORDING TO BLANCO, THE MARCH HAS TO BE STOPPED TO AVOID A BLOODBATH. GOS, HE SAID, WAS IN SAME POSITION AS FRANCE AT TIME OF THE DECOLONIZATION OF TUNISIA. WHEN BOURGUIBA INADVISEDLY TRIED TO MARCH INTO BIZERTE, THE FRENCH FIRED ON THE MARCHERS, KILLING MANY. IT WOULD BE WORSE IN THE SAHARA, HE ADDED, BECAUSE MOROCCAN TROOPS WOULD INTERVENE WHICH IN TURN WOULD DRAW IN ALGERIANS IN SUPPORT OF F POLISARIO AND SPANISH POSITION OPPOSING OUTRIGHT MOROCCAN ANNEXATION. ANTI-COMMUNIST SPAIN, HE SAID, WOULD END UP ON ALGERIA'S SIDE IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A NEW RADICAL STATE.

5. GOS, BLANCO SAID, WAS PREPARED TO HAVE MOROCCO TAKE OVER THE SAHARA, "BUT NOT IN THE WAY HASSAN HAS GONE ABOUT IT." HASSAN HAS NOT ONLY FLAUNTED ALL UN RESOLUTIONS, AN ICJ ADVISORY OPINION, AND OTHER SUGGESTIONS, HE ADDED, BUT ALSO PLACED SPAIN IN A UNTENABLE POSITION. AT SOME POINT, SPAIN WOULD HAVE TO STAND ITS GROUND; IF IT MEANT DEFENDING SAHARANS FROM THE CHAOS WHICH WOULD COME ABOUT WITH A DIS-
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ORGAINZED MOROCCAN OCCUPATION OF EL AIUUN, THEN SPAIN WOULD "USE MINEFIELDS AND ARTILLER TO STOP THE MARCH."

6. ACCORDING TO BLANCO, GOS WAS COMPLETELY "DISGUSTED WITH COURSE OF DIPLOMATIC TALKS WITH MOROCCO." BLANCO OPINED THAT WHATEVER THE US HAD DONE IN RABAT TO PERSUADE HADDTTLOO RESOLVE THE ISSUE THROUGH DIPLOMACY WAS NOT ENOUGH. HASSAN, HE SAID, HAD TO BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE COULD NOT

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ANNEX THE SAHARA IN COMPLETE DISREGARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE THREAT TO PEACE POSED BY THE MARCH. EMBOFF REITERATED OUR NEUTRAL STANCE AND OUR HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL, SATISFACTORY OUTCOME.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID07537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750375-0419
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751010/aaaaaitp.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 7536
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA: HASSAN'S INTRANSIGENCE ALLEGEDLY BLOCKS SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS, SP, MO, AL, (HASSAN II)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006